



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 2, 2017

S. 756

Save Our Seas Act of 2017

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation on April 5, 2017*

SUMMARY

S. 756 would reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million annually over the 2018-2022 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in coordination with other agencies, to carry out activities to reduce the amount of debris in oceans and coastal areas, and \$2 million annually for the Coast Guard (USCG) to better enforce laws related to discarded refuse from ships.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 756 would cost \$46 million over the 2018-2022 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting S. 756 would affect direct spending because it would authorize NOAA to collect and spend funds received from nonfederal entities; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that the bill's net effect on direct spending would be negligible. Enacting S. 756 would not affect revenues.

CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 756 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 756 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						2017-
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION							
NOAA Marine Debris Removal							
Authorization Level	0	10	10	10	10	10	50
Estimated Outlays	0	2	7	9	10	10	38
USCG Enhanced Enforcement							
Authorization Level	0	2	2	2	2	2	10
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	2	2	2	8
Total Costs							
Authorization Level	0	12	12	12	12	12	60
Estimated Outlays	0	3	8	11	12	12	46

Note: NOAA = National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; USCG = United States Coast Guard.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes S. 756 will be enacted near the end of 2017 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities.

The bill would authorize a total of \$50 million for NOAA, in coordination with other agencies, to carry out activities to reduce the amount of debris in oceans and coastal areas (such as plastic and lost fishing gear), to maintain a clearinghouse of information on marine debris for research purposes, and to provide assistance to relevant states under certain circumstances. A full year appropriation of NOAA for 2017 has not yet been enacted. However, in 2016, NOAA allocated \$6 million to related activities. The bill also would authorize a total of \$10 million for USCG to improve enforcement of existing laws and treaties that address ocean pollution from ships as well as to develop and implement a plan to improve waste management on ships. No funds have previously been allocated to these activities.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. S. 756 would authorize NOAA to accept and spend, without further appropriation, funds provided by private

entities and foreign governments for the purpose of responding to severe marine debris events. Such funds would be recorded in the budget as offsetting receipts, which are treated as reductions in direct collection of spending. Because CBO expects that any funds provided by nonfederal entities for such purposes would be spent soon after they are received, we estimate the net change in direct spending would be negligible. Enacting S. 756 would not affect revenues.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 756 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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